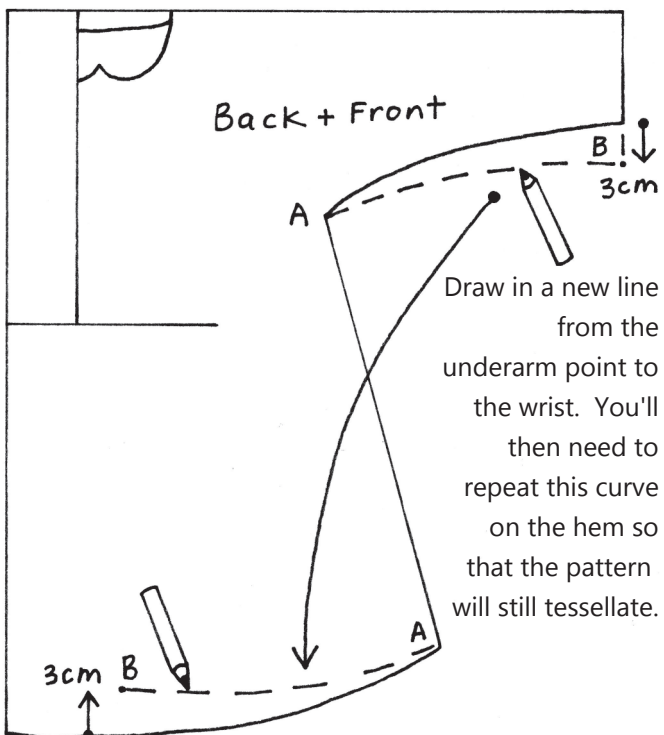


# Optimatum Coat Version

With a few changes to the pattern, Optimatum can be made as a coat.

Suggested fabrics include denim, mid-weight wool, tweed, wool suiting and gabardine.

1. Go up (at least) one size.
2. Make the sleeve wider by adding 3cm/1¼" at the wrist.



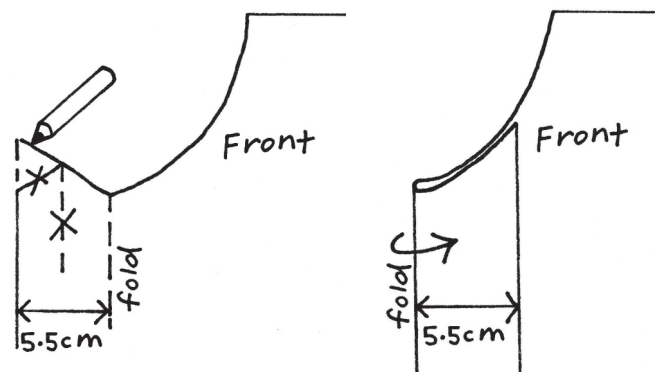
Widening the sleeve will make the body length 3cm/1¼" shorter, so adjust the length to your preference. While floor-length coats look fabulous, note that any length beyond knee length requires quite lightweight fabric, or the coat will be very heavy to wear.

3. You may like to add a belt, in which case you'll need beltloops too.

4. How are you going to finish the front button stand?

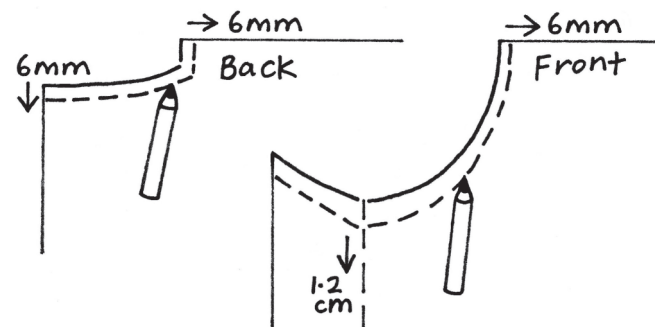
On an unlined denim (or similar) coat, leave it as-is. However, if you're using a **bulky fabric**, one that **won't topstitch well**, or if you're planning to **add a lining**, the double-folded front stand is best changed to a single fold back (with interfacing on the folded section).

Re-draw the top of the button stand so it folds in place properly. You'll be folding it back 5.5cm/2¼" in Step 8 and interfacing it.



5. If you typically wear coats over tops with chunky necklines, you might need to make the coat's neckline bigger. For example, lower it 6mm/¼" all the way around except 1.2cm/½" at the front.

This can be checked in Step 10 by carefully trying the coat on.



6. When sewing:

**Step 7, front pleats.** These can be re-imagined in any configuration, for example one big pleat aligned with the dart.

**Step 10, centre back facing.** You may need to trim back the wide seam allowance to reduce bulk.

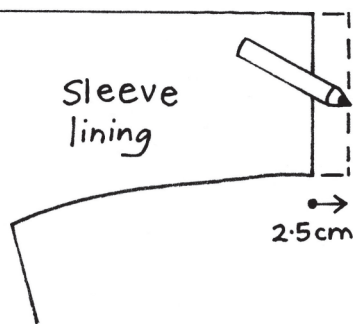
**Step 23, cuffs.** As the wrist is now wider, there won't be as much fabric to pleat in the cuff. Suggest changing the pleats to a single inverted pleat in line with the sleeve dart.

## Adding a lining

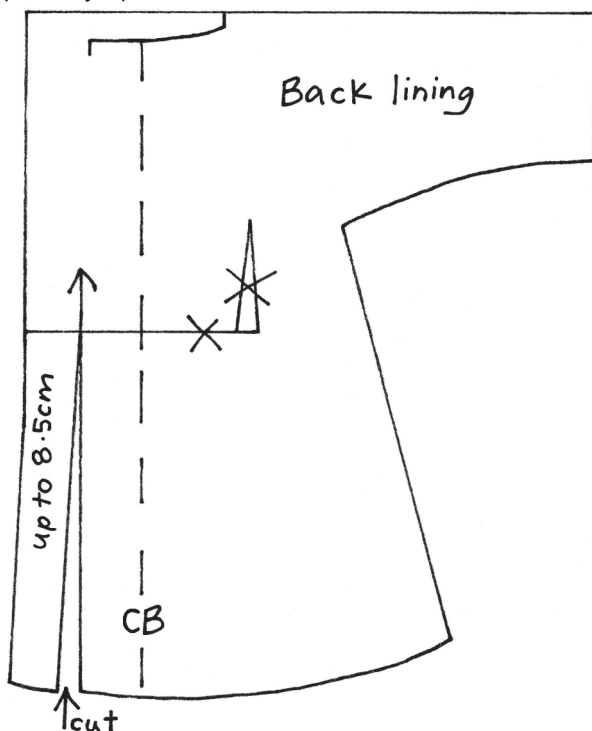
Cut the lining using the same pattern for the outer, with the following changes:

1. Make the **sleeves**

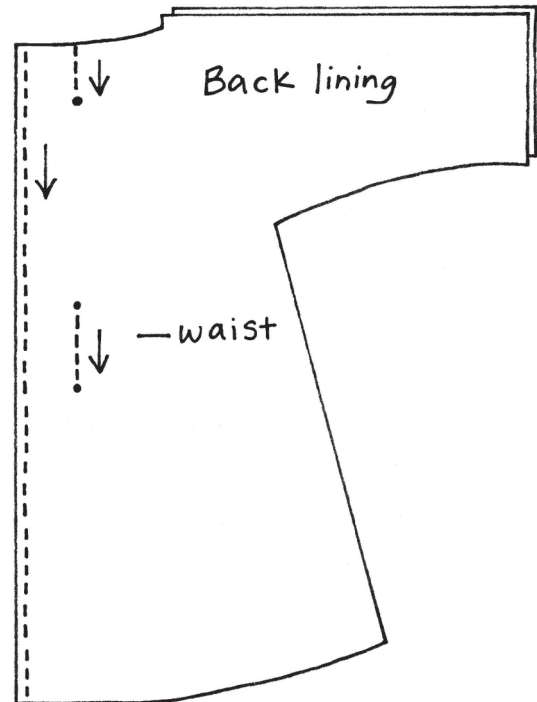
2.5cm/1" longer. As your outer fabric will probably have more give than the lining, this is necessary to give a little bit of "play" at each end so the lining won't tear.



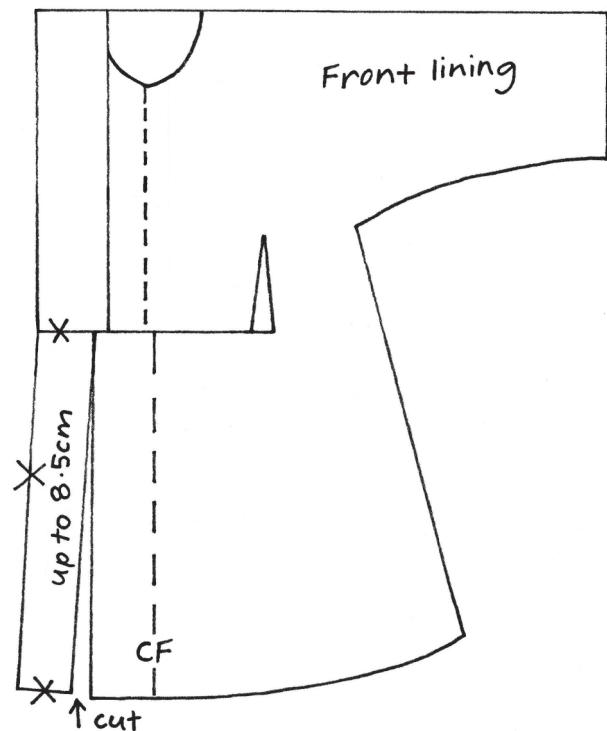
2. For the **back**, don't cut a collar on the internal lines. Instead, use *all* the fabric to make it a pleat, so you have an inverted pleat on the upper *and* lower back. Reduce the amount of fabric used in the back pleat by up to 8.5cm/3¼".



Don't cut the back horizontal waist seam. Just mark the waist position. When you sew this, stitch *on* the centre back line to make the pleats, and press them into position.



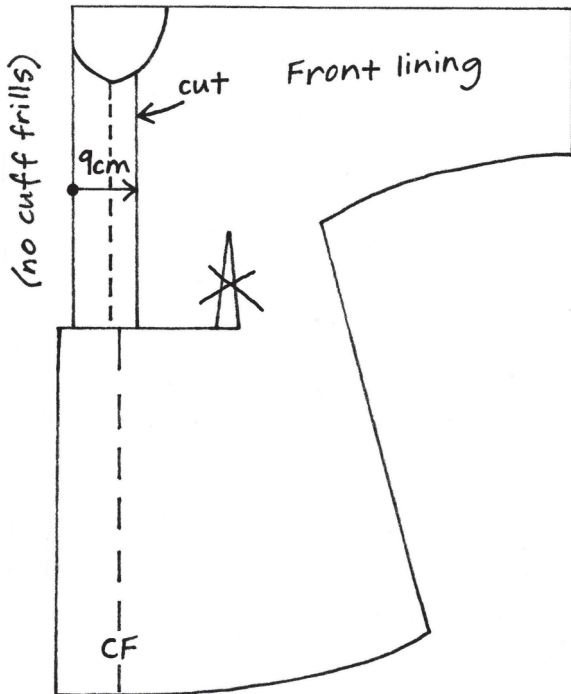
3. For the **front**, on the lower part below the waist line, reduce the amount of fabric for the pleat by up to 8.5cm/3¼".



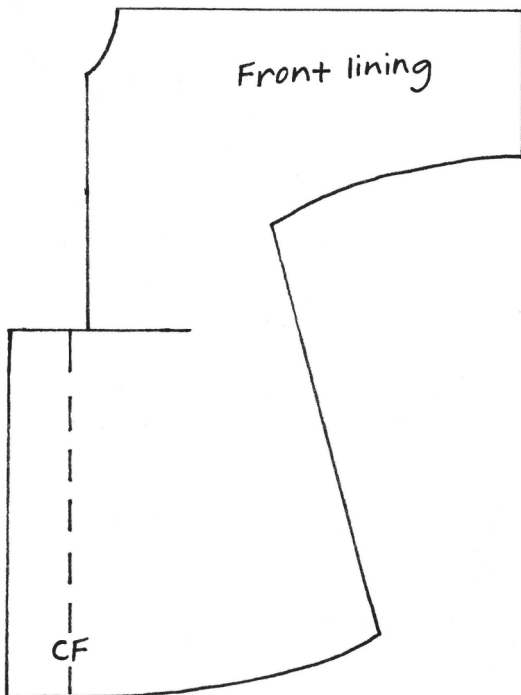
Pleat the lower part of the front onto the waist in any way you like, either as one big pleat or several smaller ones.

For the upper part, you won't need the cuff frills or the waist dart.

Locate the cutting line for the front button stand, and measure in 9cm/3½". Cut the lining along this line, and sew it to the facing with a 1cm/⅜" seam (the facing will be folded back by 5.5cm/2¼").



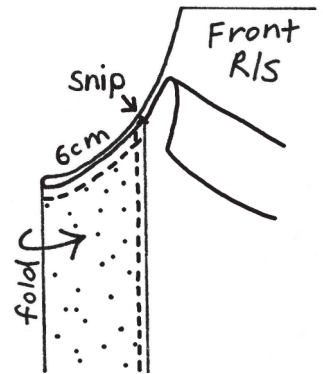
The much-reduced front lining pattern will look like this:



## Sewing order for a lined coat

1. Sew the outer and the lining as separate units, without the cuffs or collar.
2. Attach the outer and lining at the front facing, taking a 1cm/⅜" seam.
3. "Bag out" the top of the front facing by stitching the neck edge to 6cm/2⅜" from the foldline.

Snip into the seam allowance at the 6cm/2⅜" point, then attach the collar onto the remaining seam allowance around the neck. (Only the front is illustrated, for clarity.)



4. Sew the cuffs to the wrist on the outer layer. To attach the lining, sit the lining inside the coat, and reach *in between* them to get to the seam. DO NOT simply put the coat's lining and outer right sides together and stitch!
5. Hem the outer and lining separately. Hem the lining shorter than the outer so it doesn't show.